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NEWS FROM CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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CCSU Economics Department Chair Carlos Liard-Muriente (left) discusses economic concepts with his students (left to right) Mary Burton, Diana-Kay Walters, and Lakhvir Chopra.

“With a Degree in Economics, You Go Places”

Nations worldwide struggling to right themselves after being buffeted by recessions, high unemployment, debt burdens, and the diminishing quality of life for citizens are consulting economists for solutions. As Chair of the Economics Department Carlos Liard-Muriente sees it, not only now, in today’s sobering global climate, but perennially, those with degrees in economics hold a valuable asset.

Associate Professor Liard-Muriente notes, “First, the world belongs to problem solvers and that is what we do in economics. Second, in good economic times demand is high for economists; in bad economic times, it is higher. Economics majors acquire the breadth of liberal arts study plus the analytical and quantitative skills of economic theory. In some of their

classes computerized applications of economic theory are used. Economics majors are in demand by employers in need of individuals who can be trained easily to perform specific tasks.”

He adds, “Around this department, I often hear students say ‘With a degree in economics, you go places.’”

Liard-Muriente states that economists have the highest mid-career median salary among all social science and business majors. He cites the Bureau of Labor Statistics (US Department of Labor)—median annual wages and salaries of economists were \$83,590 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$59,390 and \$113,590. In March 2009, the average annual salary for economists employed by the Federal Government was \$108,010.

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The CCSU *Courier* presents a variety of news stories of interest to faculty, staff and friends of the University, leaders of Connecticut higher education, state school districts, and the University’s other diverse constituencies.

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Economists Going Places

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The BA degree in economics from CCSU is particularly useful for those pursuing careers in business, law, politics, public administration, or finance, or for those aspiring to MBA degrees. A major in economics requires 30 credits of coursework, including courses in statistics and applied calculus, as well as one course in logic or in the use of computers. An economics minor requires 18 credits.

Liard-Muriente remarks enthusiastically, "How wonderful it is that students in our introductory courses are coming from all of the CCSU schools. We've always served School of Business students who are required to take the introductory sequence in economics. But now we've created curriculum options that draw liberal arts as well as international students. We're seeing students from education and music, for example, and such diversity enriches all of our students."

The Department of Economics offers a wide variety of specialized courses which can be applied toward the major or minor – Contemporary Economic Issues; Econometrics; Economic Development; Economic Forecasting; Environmental Economics; Government and Business; History of Economic Thought; Industrial Organization; International Economics; Labor Economics; Macroeconomics; Managerial Economics; Mathematical Economics; Microeconomics; Money, Credit, and Banking; Public Finance; and Urban and Regional Economics.

"The best experience I had when studying economics was suddenly realizing how many of the theories and models I had studied actually work together in the real world. You understand the material on a new level when you can take it out of the academic setting and still see how it works."

Liard-Muriente says each full-time faculty member is creating new courses or revising current ones based on teaching/research interests, thereby keeping the economics major vital and more attractive to students from all schools. Assistant Professor Nara Mijid has created a course about gender and the economy; Associate Professor Brian J. Osoba developed the Economics of Religion; and Assistant Professor Paramita Dhar is revising courses on industrial organization and on government and business. Liard-Muriente started a new course on globalization and another on Latin American development. In

the pipeline are courses on political economics, community development, and Latina/o economic issues.

Proudly, the chair states, "Students find a welcoming environment in the classroom and when they stop by our offices. They also find that what they learn in the classroom is relevant to what they see in the 'real world.'"

Students agree.

President of the Economics Club Louis Gagnon is a senior economics major with a minor in Chinese and finance. He states, "I believe that I have a future in business and that the best thing I can do right now is prepare. I think that the subject of economics creates a great foundation for working in both the public and private sector. The best experience I had when studying economics was suddenly realizing how many of the theories and models I had studied actually work together in the real world. You understand the material on a new level when you can take it out of the academic setting and still see how it works."

Gagnon notes that – along with the Chinese language that was his minor – he was also exposed to the languages of economics, i.e., its technical/mathematical lexicon, along with its social sciences orientations.

Anna Pacanski, a transfer student from Poland who graduated in May 2010 with a degree in economics, comments, "My studies in economics helped me master analytical and critical abilities to assess historical and current data, contributed to my understanding of mathematical and statistical models, and prepared me to conduct analysis of data in order to forecast into the future. Now I work as an Earned Value Management System Analyst at Pratt & Whitney, supporting and explaining schedule and cost variances as well as monitoring the budget baseline for commercial and government projects."

As a graduate assistant in the Economics Department Pacanski recalls its "inspiring dynamics." She says, "I could always count on good advice, help, and a friendly 'hello.' Especially from Dr. Osoba whose tutoring and advice were always greatly appreciated. He would go 'the extra mile' to make sure that I was on the right track to graduate."

Economics majors can go far – and fast! CCSU alumnus John Pew '80 is investor/owner of John Pew Formula 1 Racing.

– Geri Radacsi



In the Department of Technology and Engineering Education, Associate Professor Michele Dischino (left) and Professor and Department Chair James DeLaura, work with students Elizabeth Chatis (lower center) and Djenne Mobley (top right) to introduce problem-based learning.

Michele Dischino

Sparking Student Interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Growing up Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education Michele Dischino was mystified by her Etch-A-Sketch™. How did the drawing contraction work? What made that gray powder stick to the screen and then allow it to be shaken free of the drawing surface so that a new picture could be created? She needed to see inside.

Today, with her sense of scientific curiosity firmly intact, Dischino's latest research aims at identifying the most effective ways to capture and keep students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

"My degrees in engineering (BS, mechanical engineering, Manhattan College, and PhD, bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania) are crucial to my teaching and research," says Dischino, who joined the School of Engineering and Technology six years ago. "But I think it's important for every member of society to have insights into engineering. Can you imagine a world without technology?" She laughs, "Or students without cell phones? I don't want students to think STEM subjects are boring,

useless, and difficult. I want students to be captivated by an understanding of these areas and to feel they can be creative in finding solutions to society's challenges."

Dischino talks about her role as co-principal investigator for an Advanced Technological Education project funded by the National Science Foundation. Titled "Problem-Based Learning for Sustainable Technologies: Increasing the STEM Pipeline," the three-year project began in 2009 and will continue until fall 2012.

She explains that problem-based learning (PBL) is an instructional approach whereby students learn content by actively and collaboratively solving authentic, real-world problems. "Used extensively in medical education since the 1970s, PBL has emerged as an exciting and effective alternative to traditional lecture-based instruction in STEM education. Research shows that PBL improves student learning and retention, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, teamwork, and the ability to apply knowledge in new situations — skills deemed critical for success in the 21st-century workplace."

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The principles of PBL are being used to develop innovative, standards-based curricula with the aim of increasing students' interest and preparedness in pursuing STEM-related careers. "The project principal investigators (myself included) worked with industry collaborators who are breaking new ground in 'green' technologies to create a comprehensive series of online multimedia PBL resources focused on sustainability," she says. Referred to as "STEM PBL Challenges," these instructional materials are designed to engage high school and college students in real-world problem solving.

"These materials build on our previous NSF-funded project, 'PHOTON PBL,' in which we developed similar materials, specifically for educators, on the field of photonics," explains Dischino. The results were very positive; students who used the PBL materials showed increases in their problem-solving abilities, as well as their motivation and self-efficacy. "We're optimistic that the STEM PBL Challenges will prove to be equally, if not more, effective," she says.

"I don't want students to think STEM subjects are boring, useless, and difficult. I want students to be captivated by an understanding of these areas and to feel they can be creative in finding solutions to society's challenges."

Another goal of the current NSF-funded research, notes Dischino, is to introduce pre-service teacher candidates to PBL methods and to conduct research to determine their attitudes regarding adaptation of these methods into their future classrooms.

Here CCSU plays a critical role due to the strength of its teacher education programs. In spring 2011, 15 CCSU technology education students were enrolled in a required methods course, Teaching Technology and Engineering Education, that was modified to include PBL.

Throughout the semester, students were presented with fundamental concepts related to PBL methodology and introduced to the STEM PBL curricular materials. They were led through the development of these materials and instructed in effective implementation, considering both student and teacher perspectives. Data from the pilot semester of the modified course, including pre- and post-surveys and focus group findings, are currently being analyzed and will be presented at a conference in March 2012.

Dischino's work has gained recognition. One particular point of pride came recently when she learned she was one of 59 women in Connecticut selected as finalists for the 2010 Women of Innovation Awards to honor innovators, role models, and leaders in the technology, science, and engineering fields.

Future Scholarly Projects?

Dischino and her associates are in the process of writing an application for another NSF grant. "We're planning to expand the reach of our two successful PBL projects into the field of advanced manufacturing by creating a new series of multimedia challenges, and we aim to also increase the number of STEM teachers capable of developing and delivering PBL instruction. Our hope is that our efforts will continue to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM."

Dischino notes, "I am particularly excited to be introducing these problem-based learning concepts and materials into our pre-service teacher education courses where they will benefit both our CCSU students and the many young individuals they will go on to teach. As one of only a handful of institutions with an undergraduate degree program in engineering education, CCSU is ideally situated to become a leader in this emerging field."

– Geri Radacsi

16th Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education at CCSU

In September CCSU hosted the 16th annual **New England Conference on Multicultural Education**. Speakers included James A. Banks, the Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies and founding director of the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Washington, Seattle; Lee Mun Wah, documentary filmmaker and director of the new film *If These Halls Could Talk*; and Kris D. Gutiérrez, professor of literacy and learning sciences and holder of the Inaugural Provost's Chair at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Sponsors included CCSU's School of Education and Professional Studies' Center for Multicultural Research and Education, the New England Equity Assistance Center at Brown University, and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Xiaoping Shen

Enriching the Study of Geography

Faraway lands fascinated Xiaoping Shen growing up in Beijing, understandably because her father was a peripatetic geographer. “I loved the stories and the toys he brought home,” she reminisces.

In 1995, Professor Shen’s own journey brought her to CCSU’s Geography Department where she brings considerable expertise in economic geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Shen, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Beijing Normal University and a PhD from the University of Ottawa, Canada, reflects: “My own education did not take a straightforward road.” As a girl she and her family were swept up in China’s Cultural Revolution (1966–76). Schools were closed and a large percentage of high school and university graduates were sent to rural areas. At age 16 Shen was assigned a factory job, which she held for nine years. Since there was little formal education available, she studied on her own and was one of a small group admitted to Beijing Normal University.

From these roots sprang a passionate commitment: “I really want my students to learn up-to-date information. I am determined to hone my teaching to meet the changing needs of our students.”

Thus, she is vigilant in keeping the curriculum current in the array of courses she teaches – from cartography, economic geography, GIS, East Asian study, and field study, to introduction to geography at both the undergraduate and graduate level. She developed two new courses (GIS application in business and geography of world economic development) and four on-line courses. During her tenure as chair of the Geography Department from fall 2007 to spring 2010, a new Global Sustainability specialization was added to the graduate program. “We also worked with faculty in Criminology and Criminal Justice and created a customized GIS minor for their majors,” she notes.

Recently geography major Steven Birney ’10, who now works for the Town of Newtown as a Geographic Information Systems software specialist, noted, “Dr. Shen’s ability to share her knowledge of geography with great enthusiasm and creativity helped me excel in her classes. I often use my notes from class as reference material in my present position.”



Research Accent on China’s Cultural Industries

Shen’s scholarly expertise is in economic geography, with a focus on industrial development, restructuring, and clustering in China.

Her research has been fruitful – 32 publications including refereed journal papers, book chapters, map sheets, and research reports. Her book chapters have been published by top-line publishers for geography books, such as Routledge in the UK and the Commercial Press, the oldest and one of the most reputable publishers in China. Currently she is working on three journal articles – two co-authored papers and one that will be presented at an Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2012 meeting in New York City. She has presented 33 papers at professional conferences.

“I really want my students to learn up-to-date information. I am determined to hone my teaching to meet the changing needs of our students.”

The development and distribution of cultural industries in China has been one area of Shen’s recent research, in collaboration with prominent scholars in the US and China. She’s examined the subject from various perspectives: the fine arts industry in Beijing; Eastern China’s industrial restructuring in the 21st century; privatization of rural industry and small town development in Southern Jiangsu; distribution of the aluminum

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Student in the Spotlight

César D. Delgado Succeeding with Drive and Determination— *A Travelers EDGE Scholar*

When César D. Delgado boarded a plane leaving Puerto Rico for Hartford in late 2004, he intended to return home satisfied, having finally seen his father after seven years. But Delgado's round-trip ticket turned into an indefinite stay when his father, who worked at the Hartford Marriott, offered him a job, a safe place to grow, and the tools to become bilingual.

"When you do something, do it from your heart," Delgado says. This philosophy, Delgado believes, "manifests with you being honest about what satisfies you as a person." Delgado faced many moments in his transition from Puerto Rican to American culture that demanded nothing less than honesty and a clear heart. Delgado worked as an overnight security guard at the Hartford Marriott, while studying English as a second language at Capitol Community College (CCC).

"It was a trying time," he says, "because of the language barrier; it was difficult to communicate at the level I wanted." Delgado wondered if he should go back to Puerto Rico. His mentor at CCC encouraged him to continue "doing what he was doing," to read plenty of American newspapers, and to watch TV in English. Delgado learned something more from his mentor—how to accept help. He heeded his mentor's advice and persevered.

The more comfortable Delgado became with his English skills the more he came to trust his decision to stay in the US. He was promoted to inventory associate at the Marriott, where he managed the supply chain for 140 rooms throughout the property. Delgado discovered that he liked management and started taking management courses at CCC. Delgado's passion and hard work inspired his mentor to recommend Delgado for Travelers EDGE, a new program at Travelers that offers students part-time job experience, access to higher education, financial aid, and mentoring throughout the process.

Delgado's part-time work at Travelers led to full-time work at which time he also made the leap from CCC to CCSU as a Travelers-Central EDGE Scholar in 2010. Adjunct Lecturer of Management and Organization Kate Wall says, "César Delgado is what the EDGE program is all



about. He brings curiosity, energy, and excitement to the classroom. He contributes ideas and examples from his experiences to shed light on complex theories, and, in doing so, adds value to the learning environment."

Delgado explains that he likes to think strategically, "When I'm in the classroom, I'm always thinking beyond the classroom context. If I'm working on 'X' at Travelers, I ask, how does what I'm learning connect to 'X'? That's what I love about class. I'm an extrovert, so I'm always talking, but, more than that, I'm participating as a professional, someone who has real-life experience."

Delgado's experience includes not only his new role working in Bond and Financial Products at Travelers but also giving back to the community that's nurtured him along the way. "Currently, I use my story to motivate others," Delgado says. He mentors two students through the High School, Inc., program on Asylum Avenue in Hartford. He tells them: "Hey, I did this, so can you. Let's break the barriers!"—and encourages them to persevere.

Delgado has also volunteered for the United Way Day of Caring, giving one-on-one coaching sessions and mock interviews at the Hartford Job Corps Academy to students seeking feedback on their skills. Delgado's long-term goal, in addition to becoming a leader in the insurance industry, is to found a non-profit organization to motivate students—especially those from underrepresented populations—to be successful. Delgado says, "I can't make you be successful, but I can give you the conditions—i.e., mentoring, education, training—to excel in life."

Delgado's consistently positive attitude is recognized by his mentors and professors in CCSU's

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Student in the Spotlight

Cristina Oliver Transcending Race

IHermana! Sister! Irmã! Cristina Oliver is “sister” to many within the diverse population she encounters as a CCSU student of sociology. A white student, Oliver grew up in a predominantly black community, learning early on that race and ethnicity painted an incomplete portrait of her family and the people around her. Something more instinctual called Oliver to get to know people. Her experience at CCSU, complete with a detour leading her to sociology by way of art education, encourages her to trust her instincts.

“I took a class called The Family with Adjunct Lecturer of Sociology Patricia Yeaman and I fell in love,” Oliver remembers. “Yeaman was fabulous. The class was basically a look at the real world and what living is all about. I connected really well on that level.” Oliver appreciates the sociology major at CCSU because in many courses students openly talk and share situations from their own lives. “I shared my stories,” she reveals.

Looking at one’s own story helps sociology students see the outside world more clearly. Oliver finds that her background makes her an open learner. She considered herself in the minority growing up. She feels that she wouldn’t be the unique person she is today if it weren’t for her instinct to transcend the limits of race and see people for their human qualities—needing love, growing through relationships, and finding community.

For instance, Oliver traveled to the Dominican Republic with her church last year and remembers, “It’s really hard once you’re there but you appreciate the non-verbal communication—just a smile goes a long way. Then you come back to America and no one smiles at you.” The contradictions are hard to explain, but Oliver persists in getting to know people. Universal gestures like smiles come naturally to Oliver. She gravitates towards learning experiences that blur cultural and social boundaries in favor of respect and acceptance.

Oliver interned at True Colors, a Connecticut non-profit organization working to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met (www.ourtruecolors.org). The internship exposed her to alternative possibilities in her career path. Oliver plans to pursue a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy after she com-



pletes her sociology degree at Central. Of the True Colors experience, she exclaims, “It was beautiful to see just how many types of couples there can be! Seeing that everyone needs love and goes through hardships in relationships has opened my eyes to see that a homosexual couple needs help just as much as a heterosexual couple would, and they are of equal value.”

Associate Professor of Sociology Bruce Day believes that Oliver represents Central students at their best. According to Day, who has taught Oliver in classes such as Sociological Inquiry, Sociology of Self and Society, and Passages and Prospects, “she has a great deal of compassion and a fully realized sense of how her education can be used to create positive change in her community.” Oliver serves as a campus tour guide, is a member of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), and has served as Vice President and Public Relations Officer for Habitat for Humanity. Recognizing Oliver’s additional strengths, Day feels, “she understands the power that comes with being a public sociologist and she embraces that role through public service and an active and honest curiosity about society.”

Looking back at herself as a first-year student, Oliver admits she was quiet and did not get involved in campus activities. Today she can reflect and say “I was definitely meant to be at Central.” The campus diversity inspires her and she feels she’s “evolved a lot.” Oliver

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Gene Johnson Overcoming Obstacles and Learning from Them

Gene Johnson, captain of the Blue Devils football team, tackles challenges head-on and uses his life experiences for motivation both on and off the field.

"It is a blessing to be playing football and studying at Central," says Johnson, who has developed a reputation for being both inspirational and optimistic even in the hardest of times.

The six-foot, four-inch defensive linebacker grew up in Yonkers, NY, in a rough section of town, but never let that hold him back; in fact, he says it made him who he is today.

"My family always kept me on a straight path, and I managed to get through it," he says. He was always a "big kid," he says; so big, he wasn't allowed to play football with children his age until seventh grade. Reminiscing about learning the game on-the-fly, he remembers his coach telling him to "just go up front and tackle." By the time Johnson was a junior in high school, college recruiters were following him.

Iona College in New York was his first choice, but, after one semester, the football program was cut because of budget problems. Johnson was then recruited by CCSU and became a Blue Devil in spring 2009.

Since joining, Johnson has helped the team win two conference championships. This year he was elected team captain. With sincerity Johnson says, "It's a huge accomplishment to know my teammates respect me that much to make me captain."

Johnson is as ambitious off the field as he is on it. He is vice president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and carries a heavy course load due to his double major. He has completed



the requirements for a BA in communication and will complete his BS in psychology over the summer.

He is deeply appreciative of the faculty who have been a big influence in his academic success. "Professor Tyson from the Communication Department is so down to earth, and his classes are powerful." While taking a course in Italian, Johnson encountered Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Alicia Becker. "She is just one of the most kind-hearted people I've ever met," says Johnson. "She took the time to help me out a lot."

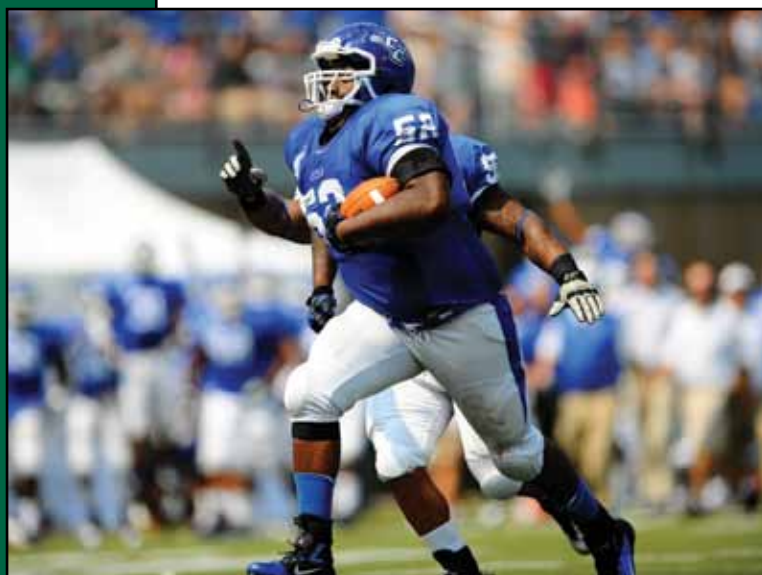
That kind of support is exactly what he needed when he got an unexpected and devastating phone call. His best friend and teammate Rich Royster, and Royster's girlfriend, Brittany Mariani, were killed in a tragic car accident. Royster and Johnson had transferred to CCSU together. "We got closer during our time at CCSU. We lived together and became best friends," Johnson recalls.

Now his memories of Royster are motivation and inspiration. "I look at the sky and know Rich is up there watching, so I look at it like I'm playing for me and him." During the season, he honored his friend by displaying Royster's football jersey at every game. "This way he traveled with us wherever we went," says Johnson.

"His drive, passion, and love for his fellow Blue Devils have shown his true character in these tough times," says Football Head Coach Jeff McInerney. Johnson's legacy will live on at Central long after he graduates, according to McInerney. "He has left his mark on this program and this University, and it's something he can be proud of."

Johnson is looking forward to the future but says, "CCSU will always be a big part of my life—this is where I earned my college degree and played my college football career."

—Michael Souer



Xiaoping Shen

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industry of China's Loess Plateau; and tourism and industrial and regional economic development in Xinjiang. She's presented her findings on these subjects at annual AAG meetings. In the past five years, she has received 15 grants, including a Ping Fellowship, CSU/AAUP grant, CCSU faculty development grant, and M.K. Chung/Hyundai Motor America Fund grant to study the economic restructuring and development of cultural industries in China.

Shen travels regularly to China to pursue her research. This past year while on sabbatical she and her Chinese co-researcher Shangyi Zhou examined the changes of economic structure and urban land use as influenced by globalization and institutional change and their effects on the development of cultural industries in Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, and Guangzhou, adjacent to Hong Kong.

Shen describes some preliminary findings: "Cultural industries are emerging in China, as evidenced by the hundreds of freelance artists that have recently occupied a number of abandoned factories in central Beijing and Shanghai and converted these workshops into loft studios and art galleries. This phenomenon marks the entrance of major Chinese cities into a post-industrial era. This project was the first comparative study on cultural industries in the cities across the Taiwan Strait by geographers outside of China."

Shen prospers academically in two realms—the land of her roots and the CCSU classroom where she opens up the world's geography to countless students. Shen, with typical warmth and enthusiasm, declares, "I am the most happy when I see my students succeed."

— Geri Radacsi

César D. Delgado

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School of Business. Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon reflects, "César was among the first Travelers-Central EDGE Scholars to come to us. We have closely followed his light as he moved across the semesters. Now, soon, he will carry it with him into a career at Travelers. His light comes from within. He is one passionately determined young fellow. César has lighted the path for all EDGE Scholars who follow."

Delgado has happily accepted an offer from Travelers to relocate to Florida—upon

completion of his bachelor's degree at CCSU in December 2011—where his position in Bond and Financial Products will evolve to include a Spanish-speaking customer base. Delgado feels that he'll be in his element and a step closer to his dream of working in international business, fluidly moving between the Spanish and English languages, and modeling the philosophies that have shaped his success.

— Kate Callahan

Cristina Oliver

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has learned to speak her mind. She credits her newfound outspokenness to being "surrounded by different types of people who allow me to express myself however I choose." This freedom heightens Oliver's instincts to see beyond race and sexual preference on a day-to-day basis.

Regardless of what diverse tapestries make up her life experiences, Oliver reaches again and again for the thread that connects us all—our humanness.

—Kate Callahan

CCSU's Too Good For Instruments Wins Bijou Blender

Central Connecticut State University's female a cappella group Too Good for Instruments (TGFI) proved to be just that in November as they won the prestigious Bijou Blender, earning a \$1,000 prize and a spot on *Fox CT Morning Extra* show. TGFI triumphed over a cappella groups from Yale University, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, and Connecticut College in the competition. Too Good For Instruments advances to the quarter-finals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella this February.

Alumnus David Bosso 2012 Connecticut Teacher of the Year

When students in David Bosso's world history class study African slavery, they won't just be reading a textbook. Instead, Bosso will explain, from personal experience, what it feels like to find oneself in a dark, dank prison cell in Ghana, the sound of the waves crashing ominously on the shore below. He will describe the shackles and what it might have felt like to walk through "The Door of No Return," before boarding a ship to a far-off land.

Bosso, Connecticut's 2012 Teacher of the Year and a CCSU alumnus (MA '08), said he can't duplicate the suffering of those enslaved peoples, but he hopes that sharing his extensive travel experiences will bring historical lessons to life for students at Berlin High School.

"No one can fathom what it must have been like for those enslaved peoples, but when you are in the cell you can get a sense of the heartbreak they must have felt," he said. "It was a very powerful experience. I want to give my students something beyond a worksheet on slavery."

Bosso, 36, has decorated his classroom with souvenir flags of the lands he has visited, including Egypt, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and China. He hopes to explore India next.

While travel plays a big role in his teaching, Bosso credits his CCSU history professors—especially John Tully, Matt Warshauer, and Mark Jones—for an important facet of his teaching philosophy.

"Every child is important and deserves an equal educational opportunity, not just in the US, but, as idealistic as it sounds, in the world."

"The way my professors treated me, so specially and respectfully, shaped my view of how to treat my own students. My professors entered the classroom with the attitude that 'we're both still learning.' They expected a lot out of me



and I wanted to 'do them proud.' Even though I worked with them at the graduate level, I think that same relationship can be replicated at the high-school level. I try to convey the idea that we are a community of learners."

Bosso can't walk through the school halls without being congratulated on his recent honor by students, parents, and colleagues. Next to his desk is a note from a former student, who wrote: "You truly inspire me, as a teacher and a person." Those

comments, he said, are like trophies.

An alum of the high school where he teaches, Bosso said he enjoys the intellectual challenges, as well as watching students mature and start their adult lives. "High school played a big role in shaping my views and my personality, so I feel a connection with students in that regard," he said.

Razor-sharp Mind and Elegant Way with Words

Bosso earned his bachelor's degree at Eastern Connecticut State University and his first master's degree from the University of Hartford. At CCSU, where he was a student from 2006–2008, he wrote his thesis on how Japan's growth in the '80s and '90s was instrumental in the reform of Connecticut education, including the creation of CAPT testing, raising teachers' salaries, and increasing standards of accountability for teachers.

"As his thesis adviser, I was constantly amazed by David's instincts as a historian. He was insatiable in his curiosity, as he collected sources on economic tensions between Japan and the United States during the 1980s and 1990s," said CCSU Associate Professor of History Mark Jones. "He has a razor-sharp mind and an elegant way with words, which helped him to produce a thesis that was as analytically powerful as it was eminently readable. To top it all off, he is a gentle, kind person with a deeply humane streak running through him."

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Bosso said he believes one can't be an effective teacher without truly caring about students. During his 14 years at Berlin High, Bosso said the only time he raised his voice was when he coached boys' basketball.

Berlin High is also where he met his wife, Jennifer, a math teacher who has two master's degrees from CCSU, one in educational leadership and another in special education.

As part of his recognition as Connecticut Teacher of the Year, Bosso will be invited to speaking events in the state and to meet with President Obama next spring. He said his message will be focused on recognizing teacher achievements and providing more opportunities for professional growth.

"Many teachers deserve to be put on a pedestal. It is very important work. We shouldn't lose sight of it. What we do is fundamentally important to society," Bosso said. "Every child is important and deserves an equal educational opportunity, not just in the US, but, as idealistic

as it sounds, in the world. Think of the world we would live in if everyone had the opportunity to learn and grow to his or her full potential."

Bosso would also like to see more resources made available for teachers to attend conferences and share ideas. He also thinks new teachers should have more opportunities to be mentored by and collaborate with veteran teachers.

Although he says students need reading, writing, and math to remain competitive in the business world, Bosso feels that no one should diminish the role that social studies plays in creating leaders and good citizens.

"In my classes we introduce controversial topics and civic mindedness. If one of our goals as a country is to maintain democracy, we need to look at the challenges that others face, discuss solutions, and develop empathy and tolerance," he said. "I think social studies classes are in the best position to do that."

— Claire LaFleur Hall

CCSU Focuses on Education during National Disability Awareness Month

In October, CCSU hosted numerous events in recognition of National Disability Awareness Month. Dr. Lawrence Haber (right), director of the Family Resource Center at the Institute of Living in Hartford, gave a lecture titled "In the Classroom: Supporting Students with Mental Health Issues." Haber and Dr. Mara De Maio (seated), who both work at the Institute of Living, discussed psychiatric disorders as disabilities and as behavioral problems and suggested ways to proactively address these issues in the classroom.

Other speakers during the month included Iraqi War veteran Bryan Adams, who was awarded a Purple Heart and is now a Rutgers University student coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. CCSU Adjunct Lecturer of Counseling and Family Therapy Laura DiGalbo shared her expertise with "Using Universal Design in Learning, Technology, and Beyond." Dr. Joseph Madaus, director of the Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability at the University of Connecticut, presented "Meeting the Learning Needs of Students with Cognitive Disabilities through Universal Design," featuring a panel of faculty members who have employed a range of free, low cost "e-tools" to make their courses more accessible.



A free experiential expo, titled "Challenges to Human Existence," allowed participants to experience challenges faced by some on a daily basis.

All events were sponsored by the Disability Awareness Month Planning Committee, the offices of Diversity and Equity, Administrative Affairs, Provost, Student Affairs, Veteran Affairs, and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research.



Components of Greenwood Energy's Direct FuelCell® power plant are assembled next to East Hall as CCSU becomes the first university in New England to use the "green" technology to generate power for a large portion of its campus.

New Fuel Cell Boosts Sustainability Efforts

The largest fuel cell at any New England college or university is now housed at CCSU and has the potential for reducing Central's power costs by more than \$100,000 per year. The fuel cell plant, located next to East Hall, arrived in large sections in November and is expected to be operational by early 2012.

The owner of the Direct FuelCell®, Greenwood Energy, is selling the ultra-clean electricity and steam generated by the plant to CCSU under a long-term agreement. The manufacturer, Fuel Cell Energy of Danbury, will maintain the plant under a multi-year service agreement.

"We are pleased to be leading the way to show how academic institutions can partner with the energy industry to improve energy efficiency and significantly reduce carbon emissions," says President Jack Miller.

CCSU Plant Facilities Engineer Robert Gagne, who is overseeing the project, says the plant will reduce the University's reliance on conventional combustion boilers while generating 1.4 megawatts of power each day. "The fuel cell will produce enough power to supply about one-third of the University's daily power needs," Gagne says. Fuel cells generate more power from a given unit of fuel and lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The plant at Central is fueled by natural gas, and, through an electrochemical reaction, generates electricity with virtually zero pollutants.

Since 2007, CCSU has strived to make significant advances in sustainability. The addition of the fuel cell power plant to Central's campus "is a significant step towards achieving our aggressive sustainability goals," according to the President.

Miller was among the first university presidents to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment to achieve climate neutrality. His Sustainability Initiative was responsible, in part, for the University's selection as an "exemplary Green Institution" by the Princeton Review for having demonstrated "an above average commitment to sustainability." President Miller's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, consisting of faculty, staff, and students, has set an ambitious goal to reduce CCSU's greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by the year 2025.

This project represents the initial collaboration between Greenwood Energy and FuelCell Energy. The Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority provided a grant for the project, in conjunction with the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund On-Site Renewable Distributed Generation Program.

—Michael Souer



Volare! University Singers Release CD to Commemorate Spanish Tour

Volare, in Italian means “to fly.” Last spring, the University Singers and their director, Professor of Music Pamela Perry, embarked on a thrilling and historic journey to Spain. During this tour, the 19-member choir – all full-time students at CCSU – deeply grasped the difference between, as one student put it, “*learning and living our music.*”

The University Singers lived their music in the towering and reverberant cathedrals in Avila and El Escorial Monastery, outside of Madrid. They performed works by Spanish composer Tomas Victoria who lived in Avila 450 years ago. Perry recalls, “When we finished singing Victoria’s compositions in the cathedral, students were actually weeping. We understood so much more about the music.” Perry explains, “I can stand in Welte Hall and teach technical aspects of the music and the students do their best; but some students, after singing Victoria’s music in the cathedral, said, ‘I get it, I get it for the first time.’”

With chills and goose bumps, and confidence that comes from hours of rehearsal, the members of the choir performed their repertoire in universities, cathedrals, and churches throughout central Spain. In Madrid, hundreds wrapped around a city block, awaiting entrance to a sacred music festival that included the University Singers. “We were expecting an average turnout,” says Andy Degan, a junior and tenor in the choir. However, inside the baroque church people spilled out into the aisles, sitting on the floor just yards away from Perry’s feet while she conducted. Senior Kaylah Smith remembers feeling “nerves, adrenaline, everything!” Perry, who founded the University Singers 19 years ago, led the choir through the concert of sacred music and the awe-filled audience erupted in applause that persisted for minutes in hope that the choir would continue to sing.

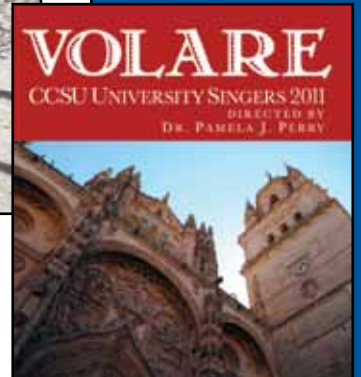
“It’s unbelievable how much appreciation the people [in Spain] have for music,” Degan reflects; “There were people who followed us from one performance to another.” The mutual appreciation between the University Singers and Spanish audiences unfolded daily throughout the tour, perhaps most memorably during an impromptu performance inside the basilica at El Escorial Monastery near Madrid.

Perry recounts the story that led the choir to El Escorial. “About 400 years ago French-born Philippe Rogier came to El Escorial to sing in the choir of King Phillip II. Over time he became highly regarded for his abilities and was appointed the king’s main composer. However, a century later, because of an earthquake and flood, his music was lost and people didn’t hear about Rogier anymore.” Perry delights in the fact that just a few years ago music historians began finding the lost manuscripts and asking, “Who is this?”

Perry’s friendship with British musicologist Philip Cave led her to explore Rogier’s music at the time of its reemergence. A short time later, Perry and the choir were in Spain singing Rogier’s music in the very space for which it was written. The trip, facilitated by CIE’s Lisa Bigelow, was organized by Professor of Modern Languages Paloma Lapeurta, who accompanied the group on the trip. Bonded by their rare experience, the singers’ emotions and reverence for the ancient compositions and space brought many to tears as they sang Rogier’s music in the basilica at El Escorial.

“We are reasonably sure that our performance was the first time his works have been performed there in over 400 years. It was thrilling! A lot of people and sight-seers stopped, asking, ‘Who are you?’ We told them,” Perry says with a smile.

– Kate Callahan



The University Singers' new CD Volare has just been released! Copies are available from Dr. Perry and members of the University Singers.

Nursing Department Partners with Friendship Service Center

Thanks to a University community engagement grant of \$8,000, a new alliance has been created between CCSU's Nursing Program and New Britain's Friendship Service Center, which strives to end hunger and helplessness in area neighborhoods. Central nursing students will be immersed in the field, providing medical attention to homeless individuals at the Friendship Service Center.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Stacy Christensen contacted the Center regarding the service learning component required in her Social Justice and Community Health Issues course.

"One of the most important things with this community partnership is not us going in there and saying, 'We have this for you,' but asking specifically 'What do you need?'"

Christensen was rewarded with a concrete list of needs, including bedrolls, socks, and blankets—all which could be provided by the

community engagement grant. Christensen, elated by the fervent response from her students, began with the first of three health screening clinics, providing cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure tests and distributing personal care products. Students also agreed to venture into the sparse woods of New Britain, where many of the city's homeless congregate, to pass out gloves and spread the word about the Friendship Service Center as a place to spend the cold winter months.

Christensen stresses the importance of community involvement in the nursing profession and enjoys seeing this enthusiasm mirrored by her students. "Just listening to students who have already been impacted by the experience, seeing how they treat everyone with respect and dignity no matter who they are or what they look like...it's very rewarding," she said.

— Lauren Starbala

Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group

Are you a victim or survivor of sexual assault? Come together with other victims and survivors to share thoughts, feelings, and counsel in a safe place every Monday from 3:30–4:30 p.m. in the Women's Center Lounge, located in the Student Center, Room 215. Sponsored by the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center.



President Jack Miller Honored by Purdue

On October 6 Purdue University's College of Education honored five distinguished alumni for 2011. Dean of the College of Education Maryann Santos de Barona (third from right) presented the award to (from right to left) CCSU President Jack Miller (Edu PhD '74), Penny Britton Kolloff (Edu PhD '83), Kathryn Scantlebury (Edu PhD '90), Jane Foley (Edu PhD '92), and David Fenell (Edu PhD '79).

Resurrecting Elihu Burritt: Bringing the Library into the 21st Century

Recent renovations to CCSU's Elihu Burritt Library have transported the formerly drab, '70s décor into the 21st century—but, according to Library Director Carl Antonucci, that's only the beginning.

Last August, the circulation desk, formerly located on the second floor, moved to the ground level of Burritt Library to increase efficiency and student accessibility. With the reorganization, there is a new energy in the circulation area, which now includes wall-mounted computers, contemporary lighting, a re-vamped Jazzman's Café, comfortable couches, large work tables, and swiveling bar stools. And students have taken notice.

Like bees in a hive, students on the ground floor of Burritt Library buzz in heated discussions and closely-knit study groups, relax on leather couches, and sip coffee perched atop bar stools with computers in laps. According to Antonucci, who arrived at the University during the planning for these renovations, the purpose of the library's renovation was to make it more accessible, more of a community. "My philosophy is to make it the students' library, a place where students can gather and study in many different styles," he says.

The bottom floor of the library is the exact opposite of the second and fourth floors, where students shush each other with pointed stares for raising their voices above a whisper. The third floor is reserved largely for computer work and research.

This reorganization is just the first of many changes planned for CCSU's library. Antonucci is eager to expand the library's offerings and also hopes to add a second electronic classroom to be used by librarians to teach classes on information literacy and research techniques.

In addition, HVAC renovations will replace the original heating and ventilation units, installed in



Students enjoy the library's new first-floor amenities.

1972, with modern technology to eliminate the library's infamous 'hot spots' and create a more comfortable environment for students and faculty. According to Antonucci, the HVAC renovations will be completed on a floor-by-floor basis. Although the main part of each floor will be off-limits while work is being done, the stacks will remain available to students during renovation.

The University also has added new bathrooms on the first and third floors and a handicapped-accessible door on the library's ground floor.

CCSU strives to transform the University's library into an integral part of the campus community. By listening to students' suggestions, by updating the library's outdated décor, and by planning more lectures and book talks, the Elihu Burritt Library has created a vibrant learning community of its own. "It's not the library of the past," Antonucci says. "We have a good staff willing to help students find the information they need. We plan to expand our focus groups and reach out to students to see what they want in a library. Because it is their library and we want to make it theirs."

— *Lauren Starbala*



Katyń Massacre Is Focus of Two-Day Event

Yale University Professor of History Timothy Snyder (left) delivered a lecture on "The Great Terror and Katyń: Poles and Soviet Power, 1937–1941" in September. The lecture was part of a Polish Studies Program event, "Katyń and the Politics of Massacre," presented by the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. The two-day event concluded with a lecture by Penn State University Associate Professor of History Robert Szymczak on the Katyń Massacre and a screening of the documentary film *Katyń*.



Study Abroad Students Capture Rare Animal on Film

Studying in the Amazon Rainforest without electricity is a bit different from what most people expect from a college course offered by CCSU. Over the summer, Professor of Geography Richard Benfield was accompanied by a group of students on his annual international trip. During this year's visit to Peru, while studying the mammals that inhabit the Tambopata region, Benfield and his students photographed one of the rarest animals in South America—a short-eared dog.

"We didn't really know what we would see, but we didn't expect to see *that*," says Benfield.

The group's two-week stay in the rainforest was spent mainly studying plants and animals. Students lived in lodges in the picturesque Tambopata Natural Reserve, located in the southeastern corner of Peru. With two native guides to show them the area, participants were most interested in studying jaguars. Jaguars are assumed to be the main predator in the region, but the group from CCSU hoped to find proof of their presence in this specific section of the reserve.

Several techniques were used to discover which mammals use the path that passes through the reserve. Benfield and his students first surveyed the trail and then set up eight wild-life cameras, which were strapped to trees. The cameras detect motion and automatically take photos. Benfield says the cameras "gave us a constant presence on the trail."

Students also spent dozens of hours locating and analyzing animal prints along the trail.

Several large jaguar prints were found. "We never saw a jaguar, but we were able to conclude that jaguars do survey this territory," says Benfield.

The cameras took an abundance of photos of various animals, but one photo truly shocked everyone. Benfield recalls the group looking at the photo. "Some students were unsure of what the animal was and some were saying, 'No, it couldn't be,' but it was. It was a short-eared dog, one of the rarest animals in all of South America," states Benfield. Students eagerly consulted the *Neotropical Companion for Mammals*, which gives vivid descriptions of all animal species in the region, and their identification was confirmed.

Sheila Hayes, a geography major studying abroad for the first time, says the entire group was shocked, surprised, and even a bit confused after the photo was discovered. Hayes notes, "We worked really hard out there, and it was rewarding to get a picture of such a rare mammal." According to Hayes the trip exceeded her expectations. "It was the most amazing and unique learning experience of my life to this day," she says.

The short-eared dog has only recently been captured on film in the wild and remains one of the rarest and most mysterious animals in South America. "We weren't looking for a short-eared dog, but that's partly what makes this so interesting," says Benfield. He plans to send the photo to *National Geographic* and hopes it will appear in the magazine.

— Michael Souer

Campus Dining: A Delicious and Nutritious Tomorrow

CCSU Dining Services teamed up with the New Britain sustainable farming organization Urban Oaks to celebrate World Food Day in October in a delicious fashion: seared wild salmon with rhubarb gastrique paired with locally grown root vegetables.

Don DeGruttola, general manager of Sodexo/CCSU Dining Services and a member of the University's Global Environment Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC), firmly believes in the food co-operative movement and heartily promotes sustainability and buying locally, calling it, "the 100% right thing to do for our students." DeGruttola became inspired after reading *Omnivores Dilemma* by Michael Pollen and began searching for a solution to some of the more problematic aspects of the industrial food chain.

The answer came in a phone call from Urban Oaks, a farm sandwiched between three-family homes on New Britain's Oak Street. With seven bountiful greenhouses filled with fresh produce, Urban Oaks wondered if CCSU would send compost materials to help fertilize the farm. Since then, Central's relationship with Urban Oaks has flourished — the University sends used

coffee grounds rich in nitrogen and donates five-gallon buckets for the farm's seedling program.

Back in the kitchen, DeGruttola advocated the replacement of three outdated dish machines with one new efficient machine, saving over a million gallons of water in the first year. DeGruttola oversaw the transition as Central went "trayless," effectively eliminating the temptation to fill a tray with food and then discard uneaten portions. The "trayless" movement not only saved money for Dining Services but also cut down on the amount of waste entering the campus' garbage disposal, which feeds into the New Britain sewer system.

DeGruttola notes that Sodexo is "catching on" to the sustainability trend sweeping the nation and is promoting a new menu concept, "the balanced way," which identifies a balanced meal option based on national dietary recommendations. CCSU's Dining Services, with the help of Urban Oaks, GESAC, and other local distributors, is working toward sustainability, food awareness, nutrition education, and local cooperation to create a better, more palatable tomorrow for the food service industry.

— Lauren Starbala



Course Abroad Fair Makes the World a Little Smaller

Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Carla Silva-Muhammad (seated) spoke with students about the opportunity to be introduced to Brazilian culture while spending spring break in Brazil during the 2012 Course Abroad Fair held on campus in September. Faculty directors were on hand to answer questions about the academic content of each program, and last year's student participants shared their experiences. CCSU is offering over 30 course abroad programs in 2012.

NOTABLE programs

In October, CCSU's Department of Theatre, in association with the Public Theatre and the New York Theatre Workshop, presented **The Freedom Theatre** from Jenin, Palestine. The Freedom Theatre is the only professional venue for theatre and multimedia north of the West Bank in Occupied Palestine. The presentation included an introduction to the theatre's work, a video highlighting productions performed in Palestine, and a discussion of the impact and legacy of founder Juliano Mer-Khamis, who was murdered in front of his theatre in April 2011.

In October, the Arts and Sciences Public Policy Committee sponsored the first in a series of conversations on current issues: **"The Future of Public Higher Education in Connecticut."** Participants included Executive Vice President of the Board of Regents Michael P. Meotti, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Ned Lamont, Board of Regents member Merle Harris, and Chancellor, Emeritus, of the Connecticut State University System William Cibes. Other topics in the coming months will include "The Future of the Book in the Age of the Internet" and "The Future of Jobs for University Graduates in Connecticut."

The Society of Mathematics, also known as The Math Club, sponsored several student seminars this semester. **"Game Shows and Probability"** explored the relationship between several mathematical methods and popular TV game shows. **"Forensics and Mathematics"** featured Adjunct Lecturer of Mathematical Sciences Cheryl Fox who explained how mathematics is used to analyze blood-stain patterns at crime scenes.

The Italian American Organization sponsored a lecture in October by Gaetano Cipolla, professor, emeritus, Saint John's University, titled **"The Importance of Sicily in the Mediterranean."**

CCSU served as one of six Connecticut venues for the **Manhattan Short Film Festival**. Audiences in over 250 cities around the world viewed and voted for their favorite films during the annual event, which has been called the "world's first global film festival."

In September the Center for International Education, the International Studies program, and the Department of Anthropology sponsored a lecture by Chilean human rights leader **Pedro Matta**. Matta's research into human rights violations under Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship was instrumental in the transformation of the infamous Villa Grimaldi torture center into the Peace Park and Memory Wall which honors those who died there.

Plan C: The People's Budget Forum, held in September, was sponsored by CCSU Youth for Socialist Action, CCSU-AAUP, CCSU Profs4Progress, Community Party, and The Spanish-Speaking Center of New Britain. Panelists included Jonathan Pelto, blogger, activist, and former state legislator; Ebony Murphy-Root, teacher and homemaker; Larry Deutsch, Hartford City Council member; and CCSU Professor of Art Mike Alewitz, a member of Prof4Progress.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc., and CCSU's Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies sponsored the **2011 Polish Genealogical Conference** in October. The conference chair was Diane Szepanski, former secretary in the Communication Department, and participants included Associate Registrar Matthew Bielawa and Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Jonathan Shea, who spoke about research for beginners and recommended resources for locating ancestral records. Adjunct Lecturer of History Romuald Byczkiewicz talked about Polish peasants in the 19th century.

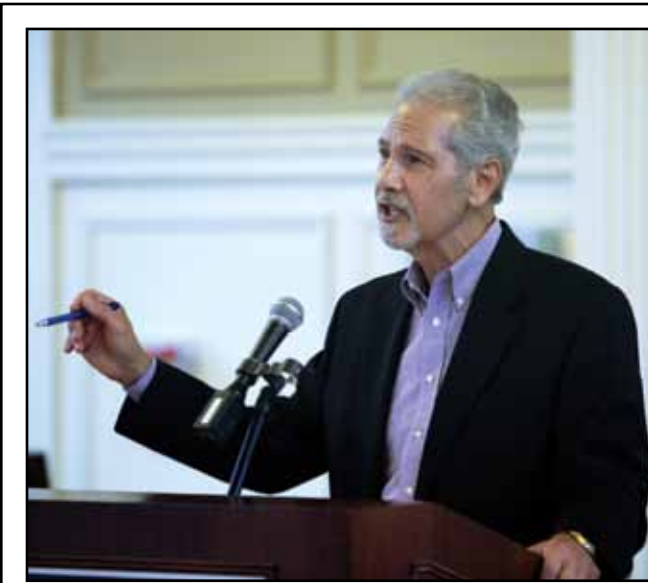
CCSU's History Department, the New Britain Parks and Recreation Department, the Fairview Cemetery Commission, and the Veterans Commission joined forces again this year to present **Timeless Tales of Fairview Cemetery** tours, sponsored by Stanley Black & Decker, in October. CCSU's Amy Kirby, a public history graduate student who served as the volunteer project coordinator, worked tirelessly as researcher, writer, and developer. The nighttime candlelit walks through the cemetery were led by actors portraying some of the famous people buried there—including jazz pianist Theodore "Teddy" Shaw Wilson, Klingberg Family Center founders John and Magdalene Klingberg, WWII Army nurse Meta Golab, Capitol Lunch co-owner Art Unaris, and Thomas Lynch, the first president of the National Baseball League. Scot Haney filmed a segment about the tour for his show *Better Connecticut*, which aired in October.

An eight-week **Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)** workshop, offered by Central Access & Student Development, began in October. The free workshop is designed to help students who experience psychiatric symptoms related to health issues such as anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. The goal of WRAP is to reduce, modify, or eliminate symptoms so students can focus on academic success.



Catherine Fellows Honored for Pioneering Work

Professor of Physical Education and Human Performance/Theatre Catherine Fellows was honored in November by the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. A recipient of the 2011 Professional Honor Award, Fellows pioneered, designed, and implemented the dance major and minor at Central. She established the CCSU Artist in Residence program, bringing world-renowned choreographers and companies such as Merce Cunningham and The Martha Graham Dance Ensemble to Central. Fellows, who directs the dance teacher certification program, says she is “determined to see that all public school children in the state have the opportunity to receive dance instruction from certified dance teachers.”



Migration, Colonialism and Oppression: A Puerto Rican Perspective

In September, the Department of Sociology and the Counseling and Wellness Center sponsored a lecture by Dr. Julio Morales (left), professor emeritus, University of Connecticut. The lecture, “Migration, Colonialism, and Oppression: A Puerto Rican Perspective,” highlighted the legacy of historical oppression in the United States. Morales is the author of *Puerto Rican Poverty and Migration: We Just Had to Try Elsewhere*.

programs IN THE community

The American Idle Symposium, held in late October, involved students from the Nursing, Geography, English, and Physical Education and Human Performance departments. Based on Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins’ book, *American Idle: A Journey Through Our Sedentary Culture*, the symposium kick-started a plan to incorporate bike paths in and around campus in an effort to create a “healthier movement culture” at Central.



Veterans Expo Provides Valuable Resources

CCSU hosted the 2011 Veterans Resource Expo in September to provide veterans with information about opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, and employment. The Expo featured interactive workshops, counseling, education, and training, as well as information and support from federal and state agencies and the private sector. Joshua Flashman (above left), US Marines, retired, spoke with Peter G. Curtis, founder and executive director of VetsLink, a non-profit service organization that provides financial mentoring services for veterans and their families. The lunch hour featured keynote speakers Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Spoonster Schwartz and US Senator Richard Blumenthal. Above right, Spoonster Schwartz and CCSU's Veterans Affairs Coordinator Chris Gutierrez share a light moment during the Expo.

On November 13, CCSU presented **Hymn to the Fallen**, a concert held in honor of veterans and those presently serving in the military. The seventh annual Veteran's Day concert featured the Plainville Wind Ensemble and was sponsored by CCSU's Veterans Affairs. In addition, toy donations were accepted for the US Marines' Toys for Tots program, and a representative from Veterans Affairs was on hand to collect photos and information for the Veterans History Project's Call for Photos Campaign.

CCSU Remembers 9/11

Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard saluted a memorial wreath during a ceremony honoring the 10th anniversary of the events of 9/11. The Student Union Board of Governors was joined by members of the University community at the Student Center Peace Pole. Symbols of remembrance, including lapel flag pins, stickers, and flags, were distributed to attendees.



A Thank You to Our Veterans

CCSU held a Veterans Day Ceremony to thank those who have bravely served our country. The ceremony, which was open to the public, included the presentation of the Colors by members of the Army National Guard; the singing of the National Anthem by CCSU senior Carley Meyer, a music education voice major; and special presentations by Congressman Christopher Murphy and State Representative and New Britain Mayor-Elect Tim O'Brien.

During the ceremony, members of the recently disbanded Veterans of Foreign Wars Great Elm Post 9945 in Wethersfield presented their first annual scholarship. Robert Kelly (top, right), adjutant for the Post, joined Commandant Thomas Olander (center) in awarding the VFW Great Elm Post 9945 Scholarship to US Marine, Corporal Joseph Wayne Lancaster (left). Lancaster, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, is now a sophomore at CCSU working to earn a BS in construction management. He serves as treasurer of the Veteran Student Organization.



Later in the ceremony, President Jack Miller (center, right) presented Gilbert F. Daniels of New Britain with the 2011 Central Connecticut State University Veteran Service Award for Excellence. Daniels, a 96-year-old Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer IV before retiring after 33 years in the military. He served in the European theater and participated in the invasion of Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge. Upon his return to the US, he served with the Connecticut National Guard and the Army Reserves 76th Division until his retirement in 1975. Daniels was also a member of the 169th Infantry Veterans Corps.



The President also honored CCSU senior Ricky Lee Kitts (bottom, left), a US Navy veteran of the Persian Gulf Conflict, with both the CCSU Student-Veteran Public Service Award and the Student-Veteran Excellence Scholarship. From 2004 to 2008, Kitts, Quarter Master 3rd Class, was on active duty with the US Navy; he spent eight months involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. While aboard the U.S.S. Essex, he helped provide humanitarian aid to Indonesia after it was hit by a tsunami, and the Philippines after a devastating mudslide. Kitts is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in geography.



— Erica Bliss

Namibian Fulbright Student Goes the Distance

Meunajo Tjiroze, who received a Fulbright Junior Science and Development grant, is at CCSU pursuing a master's degree in psychology. Tjiroze is from Namibia, located in southern Africa. The Fulbright Program, established in 1946 and sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, awards approximately 7,500 grants each year.

extra credit

CCSU Chief Human Resources Officer **Anne Alling** and student **Inez Vera** were honored at the New Britain YWCA's 14th biennial Women in Leadership Luncheon in September. Alling was also inducted into the Academy of Women Leaders.

Assistant Professor of Economics **Paramita Dhar** was invited to the Fall 2011 release of *The Connecticut Economy* at the Connecticut Education Association. Her article, titled "Isolating the Effects of School Quality on Property Value," appeared in the fall issue.

In October, CCSU a cappella groups **Divisi** and **Too Good for Instruments (TGFI)** performed in a competition at ECSU. TGFI won the trophy for first place and Divisi placed third.

Professor of Mathematical Sciences **S. Louise Gould's** multi-dimensional art piece "Cuboctahedral Symmetries to Travel" was featured in the American Mathematical Society's annual *Calendar of Mathematical Imagery*. Gould says her mathematical art grows out of her experiences with students and her exploration of mathematics, textiles, paper, and technology.

Associate Professor of English **Jason Jones** is a regular contributor to Wired.com's blog "Geek Dad." Recently he reviewed Bill Willingham's *Down the Mysterly River* and commented on the television show *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy issued an Official Statement to congratulate Professor of Economics, Emeritus, **Ki Hoon Kim** on being named Korean of the Year by the National Unification Advisory Council.

Anthropology major **Sara Larkin** was a finalist in Torrington's sixth annual Northwest Idol show in August. Larkin, who was profiled in the October issue of the *Courier*, is also a three-season athlete at CCSU.

Adjunct Lecturer of Educational Leadership **Bryan Luizzi** was appointed principal of New Canaan High School in July.

The English Department presented two lectures as part of its [E]FPS: [English] Faculty Presentation Series, held during the University Hour. In October, Professor **Steven Ostrowski** read from his upcoming young adult novel *The Suicide Walk*, which deals with the challenging interpersonal relationships of a 16-year-old boy. In November, Professor **Gilbert Gigliotti** presented research for his article "'Something's on Her Mind': Frank (Sinatra) and Frankie (Valli) Sing (Betty) Friedan." The article examines the Four Seasons' album *The Genuine Imitation Life Gazette* (1969) and Sinatra's *Watertown* (1970) and parallels with Betty Friedan's "happy housewife" in her book *The Feminine Mystique*.

Former CCSU boxing coach **Billy Taylor** was inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame in October. Taylor coached CCSU for eight seasons in the 1980s.

Professor of History **Matt Warshauer** spoke at the rededication of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Hartford in September. The ceremony, which marked the 125th anniversary of the memorial, was a continuation of the commemoration of the Civil War's 150th anniversary. A week later, Warshauer discussed his book, *Connecticut in the American Civil War*, at the New England Civil War Museum in Vernon.

In September *The Hartford Courant* covered an open house held by 12 Connecticut mosques. CCSU Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences **Ali Antar**, who serves as president of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, was interviewed by the paper regarding this effort to reach out to the community and promote healing. CCSU student **Sahar Khan**, who was also interviewed for the article, noted that the younger generation is “more open-minded” than the older generation.

Professor of Teacher Education **Aram Ayalon**, who serves on New Britain’s Board of Education, was interviewed by *The New Britain Herald* regarding 2011 National Principal of the Year and CCSU alumnus **Michael Foran**. Ayalon said that Foran’s recognition is a “morale booster” for New Britain High School.

In October, *The Hartford Courant* interviewed Professor of Geography **Richard Benfield** about the allure of small-ship cruises compared to mega cruise ships.

In an article in *The New Britain Herald* in August, Assistant Professor of English **Mary Collins** was quoted regarding the anticipated plan—to be drawn up, in part, by CCSU students—to create bike paths on and around campus.

Professor of History **Gloria Emeagwali** was quoted in an article in South Africa’s *The Southern Times* about how policies of the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) “erode developing countries’ currencies and economic capacity.”

When the East Coast experienced an earthquake, centered in Virginia, in August, local news outlets turned to CCSU’s experts to make sense of the seismic activity. NBC Connecticut and *The Hartford Courant* contacted Associate Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences **Mark Evans** while Meriden’s *Record-Journal* spoke to Associate Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences **Michael Wizevich** for his expertise.

In September Professor of Anthropology **Kenneth Feder**’s work at the historic Lighthouse Settlement in Barkhamsted was highlighted in an article in *The Hartford Courant*. Over the summer Feder, along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and volunteers from the Barkhamsted Historical Society, installed signs in Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted where the settlement was established in the late 1700s. Feder has been researching Barkhamsted Lighthouse and its artifacts for over 20 years.

CCSU Veterans Affairs Coordinator **Chris Gutierrez** appeared in a *New Britain Herald* article about counseling, grants, and scholarships available to over 600 student veterans. CCSU graduate student **Charleen Fischer** was also mentioned, along with Assistant Dean of Students **Ray Hernandez**, Adjunct Lecturer of Counseling and Family Therapy **Jeffrey Joy**, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy **Cherie King**, and Office of Alcohol & Drug Education Coordinator **Jonathan Pohl**.

CCSU student **Scott MacDonald** was quoted in *The Bristol Press* in September regarding the events of 9/11 and how the tragedy impacted his life.

In August *The New Britain Herald* interviewed CCSU President **Jack Miller** about several facets of the University, including the CCSU report card, the groundbreaking for a new residence hall in spring 2012, and future construction projects, as well as the Busway proposal.

In July, *Hartford Magazine* featured an article about CCSU’s Hybrid Propellant Rocket Engine team, which includes Associate Professor of Engineering **Viatcheslav Naoumov** and students **Thomas Boynton**, **Ryan Campbell**, **Rukie Egborge**, **Adam Goldreich**, **Alex Haralambous**, and **Mike Hrubiec**.

Professor of Anthropology **Warren Perry** was quoted in the September/October issue of *Archaeology* magazine in an article about the Great Dismal Swamp, which straddles the Virginia/North Carolina border. Perry shared his expertise on maroon sites in Jamaica, explaining how they are similar to the Great Dismal Swamp in their “scarcity of artifacts.” Fugitive enslaved people, known as maroons, made homes in isolated areas, such as the Great Dismal Swamp, where they created “complex refugee communities...with sustainable agriculture, commerce, and cultural arts.”

The New Britain Herald printed a story in August about CCSU sophomore **Jewel Robinson**, a Dean’s List student and co-captain of CCSU’s women’s soccer team who refuses to let multiple knee injuries keep her off the field.

CCSU football standouts **Matt Tyrell** and **Chris Linares** were featured in an article in *The New Britain Herald* in August. The two local players are considered great motivators by the rest of the team.



Engineering Manager Mark Mangiafico (right), of Peter Paul Electronics Co., Inc., explains the company's manufacturing process to the Consul General of Germany Friedrich L. Löhr, Boston, and Carolynn Messier, International Director, Lions Clubs International.

CCSU's Relationship with Helmut Schmidt University Gains Recognition for New Britain Manufacturer

CCSU has had a 12-year relationship with Helmut Schmidt University (HSU) of the German Armed Forces in the Republic of Germany. Every summer since 1999, retired CCSU Vice President Con O'Leary has coordinated internships for HSU engineering students with manufacturers in Connecticut. Peter Paul Electronics Co., Inc., a leader in precision manufacturing of valves, has welcomed interns for the past five years. This summer the interning students were visited by Friedrich Löhr, Consul General for the Federal Republic of Germany (Boston, MA).

During the visit to Peter Paul Electronics Co., Inc., Löhr noted that

these internships are clearly a win-win solution for all participants—giving the young German military officers insights into the American way of running a production facility, providing opportunities to generate solutions for practical technical problems the firm has to solve in its manufacturing processes, and gaining a cultural experience by living with host families in the state. Joining the facility tour was Carolyn Messier, International Director of Lions Clubs International and a resident of Connecticut, who presented a welcome flag to the Consul General.

ITBD Supports ConnDOT's Disadvantage Business Enterprise Summer Mentor Internship Program

A number of managers from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and the US Federal Highway Administration joined local business leaders and Institute of Technology & Business Development (ITBD) staff for presentations by participants in the ConnDOT's Disadvantage Business

Enterprise (DBE) Summer Mentor Internship Program in August at the ConnDOT offices in Newington. Ten college students and one high school student gave PowerPoint presentations on their seven-week internships. Working at the ConnDOT and with DBE firms, as well as on project sites, students gained critical learning skills, tested decision making skills, and explored careers in the transportation industry. They also attended resume and business skills workshops, toured critical transportation projects, and visited some of the unique transportation hubs in Connecticut. CCSU student



Omar Morgan and his younger brother, Andrew, both participated in the program. Andrew said that his brother is a good mentor and he hopes to be an engineer one day. He wrapped up his presentation with an acronym "RAP: be Responsible and get to work each day—like my brother; have Ambition and market myself, and have my Priorities in line. Because of this experience, I learned to push myself." 2011 marks ITBD's sixth year of supporting the ConnDOT DBE program, which is in its 12th year. ITBD's Janice Deveau and Mary Ann Kissel serve as liaisons with the ConnDOT for this program.

Alumnus Joe Ward Delivering a Smarter, Leaner Government

Ask Joe Ward '82 if he ever thought, when he graduated with a Business Administration degree in finance, that one day he'd rise to his current senior executive position in the US Department of the Interior (DOI), and he exclaims, "Yes, absolutely! I was confident and thought I'd realize my dream to reach a senior level. My parents always told me to be the best, no matter what you decide to do with your life, and at an early age my father praised me and bragged about my accomplishments in church and to just about anyone who'd listen. I didn't realize it then, but those words of praise established a pretty firm foundation for me to be successful."

That positive energy has fueled a rich and varied career so that today, at 54, Ward is director of the National Business Center (NBC) in the DOI and manages a \$400 million budget with some 2,000 federal employees and contractors. "Some kids don't have high self-esteem and I tell the middle-schoolers I mentor – and my own four children – to have a positive attitude regardless of your circumstances. Never, ever give up! And remember when you're knocked down, the important thing is to get up."



From left to right: Deputy Assistant Secretary, Technology, Information, and Business Systems Andrew Jackson; Secretary, Department of Interior, Ken Salazar; Director, National Business Center, Joe Ward; and Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management, and Budget, Rhea Suh.

Ward is a wizard of accounting and finance, making him well suited to oversee a huge domain. The NBC, as a federal shared service provider, supports the DOI and more than 150 federal agencies outside the department providing business management systems and services. Ward, who was appointed to his post in February 2011, is in charge of federal consulting, information technology, human resources, financial management, administrative operations, aviation management, the customer support center, and

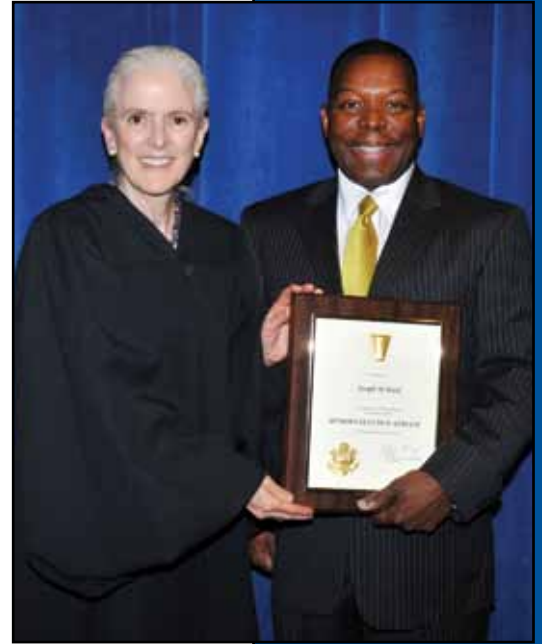
acquisition services. As chief executive for these eight lines of business, he oversees a widespread workforce headquartered in Washington, DC, with major locations in Denver, Colorado, and Boise, Idaho.

He shoulders a worthy mission and comments, "President Obama has stated, 'The American people must be able to trust that their government is doing everything in its power to stop wasteful practices and earn a high return on every tax dollar that is spent.' The NBC strengthens that trust and delivers a smarter and leaner government by leveraging economies of skill and scale and providing consolidated business management systems and services across federal agencies." Ward has a high standard to maintain. The NBC is currently the only federal agency designated by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management as a shared service provider in financial management, human resources, and payroll lines of business.

Have there been obstacles in his life as an African American? Ward considers. "I don't think I've faced anything that others haven't faced to get to where I am." Yet he acknowledges that of the more than 2.1 million employees in the federal civilian work force, only 7,100 are members of the career Senior Executive Service, or about one third of one percent. African-Americans comprise about nine percent of this select group to which he has earned membership.

How the Journey Began

Ward, who was born in Hartford and grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, enlisted when he was 17 in the US Air Force where he served with distinction for 26 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2003 after assuming increasingly high-level roles in financial management and delivery of financial services.



Joe Ward and The Honorable Susan G. Braden, United States Court of Federal Claims, after his swearing in as a senior executive service member.

alumni news

IN THE

Alumnus **Jim Day '75** was profiled in the *Berlin Patch* in August. The Berlin High School wrestling coach and athletic director will be retiring at the end of the 2011–2012 school year.

In October Danbury's *News-Times* ran an interview with CCSU alumnus **Joe DeFeo '79**, and his wife, highlighting their efforts to give back to their community. The couple focuses their philanthropic efforts on health, hunger, and education, including scholarships for CCSU.

CCSU alumna **Ashley Mucciari '11** was interviewed in August by the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Mucciari and other volunteers spent a week in Philomath, Oregon, building a duplex for two single mothers and their children.

Two CCSU alumni were inducted into the Housatonic Community College Foundation's Alumni Hall of Fame in November. **Fernando Goncalves Rosa '75** and **Patricia J. Foley '80** received their bachelor's of science in accounting degrees from CCSU's School of Business.

The *Milford Daily News* published an article in September about CCSU alumnus **Michael Sherman**, who has been the head coach of Texas A&M's football team for four years. Sherman received his BSEd in English in 1978.

Edna Smith '76 was featured in a recent article in the *Ellington-Somers Patch*. Smith has been the school nurse at Somers High School since 1976 and has no plans for retirement.

Alumnus Joe Ward Delivering a Smarter, Leaner Government

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"After five years in the military I was awarded an ROTC scholarship and came to Central," he recalls. "My first impression was that it was a small, friendly campus, not overwhelming, but then I'd already been to Spain as a weather observer." Ward's business professors, he says, "pointed out my talent and bent for finance and helped me understand the opportunities in business where I might realize my potential."

And Ward did just that. Armed with lots of enthusiasm and his business/financial acumen, he forged a career in the Department of Defense (DOD), where he served in increasingly responsible positions culminating in back-to-back Pentagon assignments from 1997 to 2003. "I loved it. It was a blast," he states enthusiastically. In his job of providing accounting, finance, and travel support to Air Force personnel around the globe, not only did he rub elbows with then-President Bill Clinton (at the USAF 50th birthday celebration) and Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (at a Tuskegee Airmen convention), but his remarkable record led to the prestigious American Society of Military Comptrollers award recognizing him as one of the top accounting and finance officers in the DOD. Ward retired from the military in 2003 and worked as a consultant for two different "Big 4" accounting firms as an executive in strategy and operations and risk and advisory services respectively. In

2008, he accepted a civil service position with the DOD and, while there, led an unprecedented usability review for the department's enterprise-wide travel system.

A highly emotional event for Ward happened in 2001 when he accepted an invitation from his stepmother, Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward of Pre-Collegiate and Access Services, to return to CCSU to honor four members of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, African-American airmen who served valiantly in World War II. "At the commencement ceremony where they received honorary degrees, it was my privilege to present a letter of appreciation to them from the Air Force chief of staff," he says. "My own son, Joseph Ward, III, has followed in my shoes and is a 2005 graduate from the US Air Force Academy. Currently, he is a captain and pilot serving on active duty. We stood on the shoulders of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first blacks to fly in the Air Force. We never could have been able to be officers in the military if it weren't for them."

Both Nkonoki-Ward and her daughter, Lisa, remember Ward as a youth—a born "delegator but never bossy. He has a kind, generous heart and spirit and a great sense of humor. CCSU students can look to him as a beacon," says Lisa. "They can say, 'Wow, look how great successes are possible.'"

— Geri Radacsi

Ronald Fernandez: Scholar, Mentor, and Friend

Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Emeritus, Ronald Fernandez died on August 27 of esophageal cancer. He was 67. He will be missed by colleagues and students in the CCSU community who benefitted from his warmth and intelligence. His rise to national attention came with the publication of *Los Macheteros: The Wells Fargo Robbery and the Struggle for Puerto Rican Independence*. According to a September 1st *New York Times* memorial, Fernandez's research into the lives of the masterminds of the heist—members of a militant Puerto Rican independence group called Los Macheteros—led him "to a broader interest in the back story of the Macheteros' cause: the long and, for most Americans, obscure history of disenfranchisement on the island of Puerto Rico." While Fernandez produced seven books, including an award-winning textbook, his passion remained with the needs of community and family. Fernandez founded the Caribbean Studies Center (now the Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center) at CCSU in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Harrison; three children, Adam, Carrie, and Ben; three grandchildren; and a sister. Memorial donations can be made to: Ronald Fernandez Scholarship for Scholars of Latino and Caribbean Studies, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106.

alumni news

CCSU alumna **Christina Beebe '96** joined the staff at the Master's School in West Simsbury, where she will be teaching middle school art. Alumna **Lisa-Brit Wahlberg '00** will be joining her as the school's International Student Coordinator.

Hunter College, a constituent college of the City University of New York, named **Shay Berry** head men's basketball coach in October. Berry graduated from CCSU in 1989 with a BA in communication and has served as assistant basketball coach at Dartmouth, Fordham, NYU, and Yale.

In September the Linden Street School in Plainville, CT, appointed CCSU alumna **Paula Eshoo** as its new principal. Eshoo earned her Sixth Year Certificate in educational leadership in 2002.

In September, Watkinson School in Hartford appointed CCSU alumna **Leslie Galvin '11** as their new assistant athletic director. For the last two spring seasons Galvin served as the school's assistant varsity lacrosse coach.

In September **Jess Giannini** was appointed as assistant principal of Avon's Pine Grove Elementary School. Giannini earned an MS in reading and language arts in 2003 and a SYC in educational leadership in 2007.

CCSU alumnus **Mike Gibbons** won a gold medal in wrestling at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games, held in late summer in New York City. Fire Captain Gibbons, who earned his BS in marketing in 1994, triumphed over competitors from Russia and India before defeating a member of the New York City Police Department to win gold.

Canton's Board of Education appointed CCSU alum **Jordan Grossman** as the new assistant superintendent of schools, effective January 1, 2012. Grossman received an MS in educational leadership in 1998.

CCSU alum **André Hill** MS '05 was appointed by Jamaica's Ministry of Education to the position of National Literacy Coordinator.

Jay J. Rasmus joined Mahoney Sabol & Co., LLP, as a partner in September. He received his BS in accounting from CCSU in 1982.

Torrington High School social studies teacher and CCSU alumnus **Patrick Richardson** BA '92, BSEd '94, MS '03, was named Torrington's Teacher of the Year in August.

Leslie Torres-Rodriguez EdD '08 was appointed as Great Path Academy's new principal in August. Torres-Rodriguez was hired as the Manchester magnet school's assistant principal in May and was promoted three months later.



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